

VI. DEMAND & NEED FOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

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TRENDS IN RECREATION

There has been a large shift in the level of health and fitness of the American public over the last 30 years. Obesity rates have doubled since 1980 and the majority of Americans do not get enough physical activity to provide health benefits. Parks and greenway systems have a real and tangible opportunity to counter this epidemic. An activity as simple as walking is actually one of the best forms of exercise, but factors such as lack of availability and access, inconvenience, safety concerns, and low attractiveness keep people from getting out and being active. Trails and access to places to be active are significantly related to community physical activity levels. Many characteristics and design standards of a community can encourage physical activity. Cities should promote easy access to bike and walking paths, conveniently locate recreational facilities, provide destinations within walking distance, and ensure that open space is attractive and appealing. And overall “walkability” of the community

should be a focus, providing ample well-lit trails that connect neighborhoods, points of interest, and parks. Many communities have installed outdoor fitness equipment in their community parks. The equipment can accommodate all age groups and can be grouped together or placed along an exercise trail. A good parks and greenway system can promote the desired behavior and make it harder to be sedentary.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

To establish the demand for facilities for the City of Lakeland, this Master Plan utilized the Population Ratio Method along with standards specific to the City. This is a simple but effective method, which stresses the direct connection of recreation demands to population. One of the best-known and most widely used methods, the Population Ratio Method is

also attractive because of its flexibility and ease of update. By evaluating national standards, local standards from other adjacent communities, and reviewing local attitudes and actual participation by residents, facility development standards were determined for Lakeland (Table 7, Below). The resulting projections will aide in future recreational planning decisions for the City.

TABLE 7:
LAKELAND FACILITY STANDARDS

FACILITY	UNIT	STANDARD
Baseball	Field	1 per 2,500
Softball	Field	1 per 2,500
Basketball	Court	1 per 5,000
Soccer	Field	1 per 3,000
Golf Course	Course	1 per 25,000
Tennis	Court	1 per 2,500
Football	Field	1 per 5,000
Walking/ Jogging Path	Mile	1 per 1,000
Bicycling	Mile	1 per 1,000
Open Space	Acre	1 per 1,000
Playground (2,500 S.F. min.)	Each	1 per 5,000
Pavilion/ Shelter	Each	1 per 5,000
Picnic Tables	Each	1 per 1,000
Swimming Pool	Each	1 per 20,000

DEMAND PROJECTIONS

By applying current and projected population to the facility development standards established for Lakeland, current and projected demand for each facility can be established (See Table 8). The following is an example of how demand is calculated:

Activity: Tennis

Unit: Court

Standard: 1 court per every 2,500 people

Projected Population of Lakeland: 12,819

Facility Demand =

12,819 People x (1 Court/2,500 People)

= 5.1 Courts

Since it is unrealistic to build a partial facility, the figure of 5.1 courts is rounded down to 5 courts.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. Bicycling refers to cycling on paved trails. Dirt trails, such as those at I.H. Park, are not included in this total. Mountain biking refers to cycling on unpaved trails.
2. Even though the City of Lakeland has limited use of some privately owned basketball courts, the supply is figured at zero because they are not city-owned and use could be discontinued at any time.

TABLE 8: LAKELAND FACILITY DEMANDS				
FACILITY	PROJECTION YEAR	POPULATION	STANDARD	DEMAND
Baseball (Unit: Field)	2009	12,819	1 per 2,500	5
	2014	16,360		7
	2019	20,880		8
Softball (Unit: Field)	2009	12,819	1 per 2,500	5
	2014	16,360		7
	2019	20,880		8
Basketball (Unit: Court)	2009	12,819	1 per 5,000	3
	2014	16,360		3
	2019	20,880		4
Soccer (Unit: Field)	2009	12,819	1 per 3,000	4
	2014	16,360		5
	2019	20,880		7
Golf Course (Unit: Course)	2009	12,819	1 per 25,000	1
	2014	16,360		1
	2019	20,880		1
Tennis (Unit: Court)	2009	12,819	1 per 2,500	5
	2014	16,360		7
	2019	20,880		8
Football (Unit: Field)	2009	12,819	1 per 5,000	3
	2014	16,360		3
	2019	20,880		4

TABLE 8: LAKELAND FACILITY DEMANDS				
FACILITY	PROJECTION YEAR	POPULATION	STANDARD	DEMAND
Walking/Jogging Path (Unit: Mile)	2009	12,819	1 per 1,000	13
	2014	16,360		16
	2019	20,880		21
Bicycling (Unit: Mile) (not including I.H. Park)	2009	12,819	1 per 1,000	13
	2014	16,360		16
	2019	20,880		21
Mountain Biking (Unit: Mile)	2009	12,819	1 per 1,000	13
	2014	16,360		16
	2019	20,880		21
Open Space (Unit: Acre)	2009	12,819	1 per 1,000	13
	2014	16,360		16
	2019	20,880		21
Playground (Unit: Each - 2,500 S.F. min.)	2009	12,819	1 per 5,000	3
	2014	16,360		3
	2019	20,880		4
Pavilion/Shelter (Unit: Each)	2009	12,819	1 per 5,000	3
	2014	16,360		3
	2019	20,880		4
Picnic Tables (Unit: Each)	2009	12,819	1 per 1,000	13
	2014	16,360		16
	2019	20,880		21
Swimming Pool (Unit: Each)	2009	12,819	1 per 20,000	1
	2014	16,360		1
	2019	20,880		1

NEED PROJECTIONS

By utilizing the amount of demand calculated for each type of facility, the actual need can now be determined. These figures are shown in Table 9, where the present number of facilities is related to the demand, resulting in either a negative number of facilities (indicating a future need) or a positive number (indicating an adequate availability of facilities). This is calculated for each activity and for every projection year, making it possible to plan for the development of future facilities before the need becomes critical.

In reviewing the need resultants, it must be remembered that these figures are cumulative and do not reflect the acquisition of facilities in preceding years. As new facilities are added to the existing system, future needs will decrease, and the numbers should be adjusted accordingly.

TABLE 9:
LAKELAND FACILITY NEED PROJECTIONS

FACILITY	PROJECTION YEAR	SUPPLY	DEMAND	RESULTANT
Baseball (Unit: Field)	2009	0	5	-5
	2014		7	-7
	2019		8	-8
Softball (Unit: Field)	2009	0	5	-5
	2014		7	-7
	2019		8	-8
Basketball (Unit: Court)	2009	0	3	-3
	2014		3	-3
	2019		4	-4
Soccer (Unit: Field)	2009	0	3	-3
	2014		3	-3
	2019		4	-4
Golf Course (Unit: Course)	2009	0	1	-1
	2014		1	-1
	2019		1	-1
Tennis (Unit: Court)	2009	2	5	-3
	2014		7	-5
	2019		8	-6
Football (Unit: Field)	2009	0	3	-3
	2014		3	-3
	2019		4	-4

TABLE 9:
LAKELAND FACILITY NEED PROJECTIONS

FACILITY	PROJECTION YEAR	SUPPLY	DEMAND	RESULTANT
Walking/Jogging Path (Unit: Mile)	2009	5.2	13	-8
	2014		16	-11
	2019		21	-16
Bicycling (Unit: Mile) (not including I.H. Park)	2009	0	13	-13
	2014		16	-16
	2019		21	-21
Mountain Biking (Unit: Mile)	2009	3	13	-10
	2014		16	-13
	2019		21	-18
Open Space (Unit: Acre)	2009	7.6	13	-5
	2014		16	-9
	2019		21	-13
Playground (Unit: Each - 2,500 S.F. min.)	2009	4	3	1
	2014		3	1
	2019		4	-0
Pavilion/Shelter (Unit: Each)	2009	5	3	2
	2014		3	2
	2019		4	1
Picnic Tables (Unit: Each)	2009	51	13	38
	2014		16	35
	2019		21	30
Swimming Pool (Unit: Each)	2009	0	1	-1
	2014		1	-1
	2019		1	-1